

REMARKS

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's careful examination of this case. Reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested in view of the instant remarks.

On pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 – 7 and 14 as being anticipated by Poindexter et al (US 2,615,834). On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4 and 7 – 14 as being anticipated by DE 374918. On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 4 – 9 as being anticipated by Beam (US 1,523,682).

In view of the claim rejections by Poindexter et al, DE 374918 and Beam, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to specify firstly that the cranked member is in the pyrolysis chamber, secondly that the elongate member and the feed formation move backwards and forwards with the elongate member and the feed formation moving horizontally in the material from the inlet towards the outlet in order to move the material towards the outlet, and the elongate member and the feed formation moving above the material from the outlet to the inlet, and thirdly that the feed formations cannot move with respect to the first end of the elongate member.

It is clear that the above first two features are not in Poindexter et al, DE 374918 or Beam.

More specifically, it is clear from the right hand end of Figures 1 and 3 of Poindexter that the cranked member is outside the apparatus 1. It is especially clear from Figure 3 of Poindexter et al that the crank 51 and in particular the arms 49 and 52 are constrained in a part 50 and thus always move in a horizontal direction both from the inlet towards the outlet and from the outlet to the inlet. This is only to be expected from Poindexter et al because, as is clear from the title and the specification, Poindexter et al is concerned with apparatus which is an agitator rather than a feeder. Poindexter et al simply agitates the material in the apparatus 1. In contrast the Applicant's apparatus moves the material from the inlet towards the outlet.

DE 374918 has a cranked member 19 which is outside the apparatus 11. It is clear from the pivotal connection to the left of the member 19 that the elongate member 17 simply moves backwards and forwards. This is because the right hand end of the elongate member 17 is constrained in a bush which is at the right hand end of the apparatus 11 and just to the left of the pivotal connection to the cranked member 19.

The Beam apparatus is not believed to be apparatus for the pyrolysis of material as is specified in the Applicant's claim 1. The beam apparatus is open to the atmosphere and thus normal combustion would take place rather than pyrolysis. As can best be appreciated from Figure 3 of Beam, the cranked members AA and BB drive carrier assemblies 72 with blades 69 (see also Figure 17). The carrier assemblies 79 simply move backwards and forwards in the same plane due to elongate members indicated as 31 in Figure 3

moving through guide bushes 72A. Thus the cranked members AA and BB and their associated parts are located outside the beam chamber which is to the left of the wall 3. The beam chamber is not a pyrolysis chamber. The feed formations in the form of the blade 69 on the carrier assemblies 30 simply move backwards and forwards in the same plane. This is because the blades 69 pivot out of the material. The elongate members indicated by 31 in Figure 3 and by 22 in Figure 17 clearly only move backwards and forwards in the same plane. The Applicant's amended claim 1 specifies that the Applicant's feed formation cannot move with respect to the first end of the elongate member, (i.e. the third feature mentioned above) and this feature is clearly not provided by the Beam blades 69 which pivot as can be seen from Figure 17 of Beam.

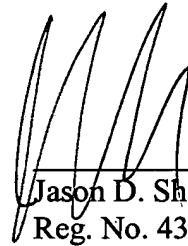
Referring to the last paragraph on page 4 of the Office Action, the prior art made of record and not relied upon by the Examiner has been carefully considered. This prior art is not believed to affect the allowability of the amended claim 1, nor the above submissions.

The Applicant relies for patentability of the sub-claims 2 – 14 on the fact that these sub-claims 2 – 14 include all of the features of claim 1, which claim 1 is believed to be allowable for the above stated reasons.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

If for any reason this RESPONSE is found to be INCOMPLETE, or if at any time it appears that a TELEPHONE CONFERENCE with Counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned or his associates, collect in Waltham, Massachusetts, (781)890-5678.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several stylized, overlapping loops and a final vertical stroke, positioned above a horizontal line.

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